

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read Minghua's online discussion with Steve. What learning tips does Steve offer? Write *V* for vocabulary, *G* for grammar and *S* for speaking in the circles.



Hi. I'm Minghua from China. I'm learning English and I feel so frustrated. There are just so many new words to remember and English grammar rules are really confusing. I become very nervous when I speak English, too. What should I do?

Hi Minghua,

Don't be frustrated. Learning a new language is not easy. I can share some of my learning tips with you.

- ☐ For vocabulary, I think it's useful to make word lists for different topics. For example, you can make lists for fruit, vegetables and animals. Then you can review them whenever you have time. The more you review, the more easily you'll remember! And when you want to speak or write on a certain topic, you can refer to those lists.
- ☐ As for grammar rules, I've used pictures and tables to help me, for example with verb tenses. I've also tried to put difficult structures into songs, but I think the best way to remember grammar rules is to use them. These methods work well for me. You can have a try.
- ☐ In the past, I was also very nervous when I spoke English in class because I was afraid of making mistakes. Then, I tried to talk to myself. Whenever I was alone, I just talked to myself in English. It worked. Now I no longer feel nervous when I speak English in class!

I hope these tips are helpful for you. I am sure you will feel less frustrated soon.

Good luck!

Steve

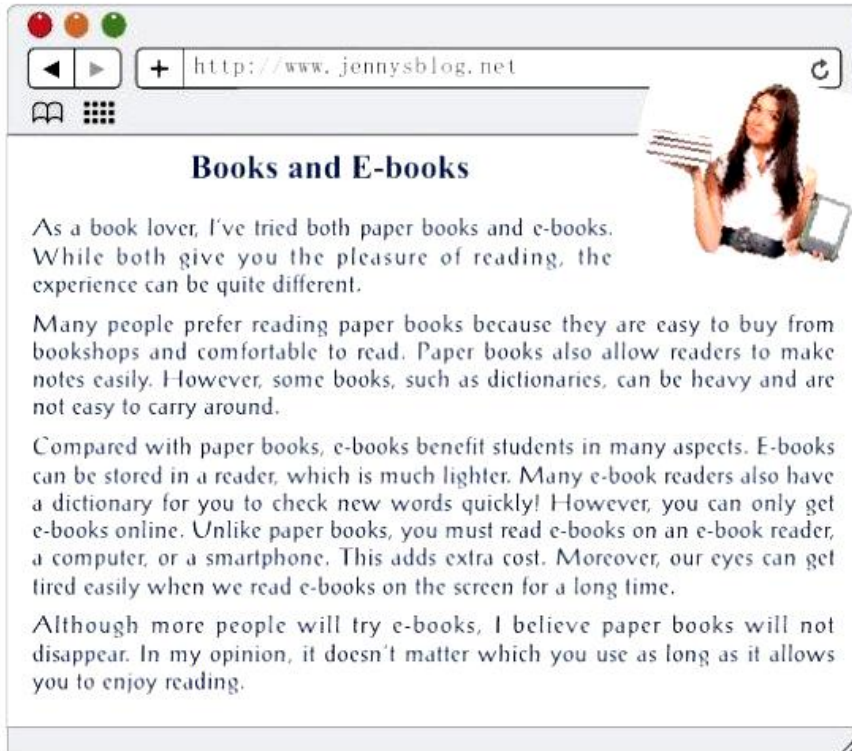
Text Builder

- 2 Look at the learning problems in the table and find the solutions in the online discussion and complete the table.

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read Jenny's blog and complete the sentences below with e-books or paper books.



Books and E-books

As a book lover, I've tried both paper books and e-books. While both give you the pleasure of reading, the experience can be quite different.

Many people prefer reading paper books because they are easy to buy from bookshops and comfortable to read. Paper books also allow readers to make notes easily. However, some books, such as dictionaries, can be heavy and are not easy to carry around.

Compared with paper books, e-books benefit students in many aspects. E-books can be stored in a reader, which is much lighter. Many e-book readers also have a dictionary for you to check new words quickly! However, you can only get e-books online. Unlike paper books, you must read e-books on an e-book reader, a computer, or a smartphone. This adds extra cost. Moreover, our eyes can get tired easily when we read e-books on the screen for a long time.

Although more people will try e-books, I believe paper books will not disappear. In my opinion, it doesn't matter which you use as long as it allows you to enjoy reading.

- 1 _____ are easier to get because you can buy them from bookshops.
- 2 _____ are convenient for making notes.
- 3 _____ are easier to read. Your eyes won't get tired easily.
- 4 _____ are easier to carry since you can store many of them in one device.

Text Builder

- 2 What's the function of each paragraph in Jenny's blog? (*Introduction, Conclusion, Advantages of paper books, Advantages of e-books*)

Para. 1: _____ Para. 2: _____
Para. 3: _____ Para. 4: _____

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read a student's writing about a famous Chinese computer scientist. Then read the sentences below and write *T* for true and *F* for false.



My favourite inventor is Wang Xuan. As we all know, Wang Xuan was one of the most famous computer scientists and inventors. He invented the technology for printing Chinese characters. As a result, he is known as "The Father of the Chinese Language Laser Typesetting".

Since there is a big difference between Chinese and English writing systems, laser typesetting for the Chinese language was a serious problem for scientists all over the world. For this reason, Wang Xuan decided to try to come up with a solution. In 1975, he began researching laser typesetting and electronic publishing systems for Chinese. He was not afraid to try new technology, and although he didn't have success all the time, he never gave up. He is believed to be the second most important developer in printing Chinese after Bi Sheng. Now, Wang Xuan's amazing invention is used all over the world, and it has been extremely helpful to the Chinese newspaper publishing industry.

Wang Xuan was not only a great modern scientist but also a great role model for many young people. His life story teaches us that a person should follow his own dream and try his best to make it come true.



- 1 ___ Wang Xuan started his research of laser typesetting in 1975.
- 2 ___ Wang Xuan invented lots of computer programmes for teaching Chinese.
- 3 ___ Wang Xuan found it easy to invent laser typesetting for the Chinese language.
- 4 ___ Wang Xuan was a great role model for many young people.

Communication Workshop

Reading

1 Read Angela's letter and then answer the following questions.

Dear Liu Yang,

I'm Angela Liu, a middle school student in Beijing. My classmates and I **were really excited to** learn that you were **not only** the first Chinese woman in space **but also** the youngest astronaut from China. That makes me **admire** you very much. **make sb. do**

not only...but also...

Life at school is busy, but **once** I get home, I like reading books, **especially** books about physics and chemistry. **However**, my favourite books are about space. When I read them, I **imagine** that I'm an astronaut and I'm on a space mission. I **want to be** an astronaut **in the future**, too.

It must be very exciting to live in space. I wonder what your life was like there. What did it feel like to be in space? What did you see? What did you eat? How did you sleep? What did the stars look like from space?

My classmates and I admire you very much—you're such **a good role model**. All of my classmates have **decided to** work harder and **do our best to realise our dreams**, just like you.

I'm looking forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Angela Liu



be excited to do sth.

make sb. do

- 1 Why did Angela write a letter to Liu Yang?
- 2 Is Angela interested in space? How do you know?
- 3 What questions did Angela ask Liu Yang?
- 4 What would Angela like to be in the future?

Text Builder

2 Match the parts of a letter and the examples.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Signature | a. Yours faithfully, |
| 2 Greeting | b. I'm Angela Liu ... |
| 3 Date | c. Angela Liu |
| 4 Closing | d. June 18, 2012 |
| 5 Body | e. Dear Liu Yang, |

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read Nancy's story and answer the questions below.

A Story

Last Thursday was Daisy's birthday. I went to her home in the evening to celebrate. It was a fun night. Lots of her friends came and we had a great dinner together. We all enjoyed ourselves a lot and stayed until very late. When I got back home, it was already 11 pm. I was so tired that I fell asleep immediately and forgot to set the alarm for the next morning.

I had a really good sleep, but when I woke up the next day, it was already 10 am! I didn't know what to do, because I knew that I was very late for school. Then I quickly put on my uniform and rushed to school.

To my surprise, the school was closed and there were no students or teachers around. I was so confused. While I was trying to find out what happened, the school's guard came over to tell me that day was a school holiday! What a funny mistake!



- 1 What kind of story is it? Is it funny or serious?
 - 2 When did this story happen?
 - 3 Where was Nancy last Thursday night?
 - 4 How did Nancy feel when she got up the next morning?
 - 5 What was Nancy's mistake?
- 2 Read the story again and underline the following adjectives. What do these adjectives mean? Why do we need so many adjectives in a passage?

fun great tired good late closed confused funny

16 Yao Ming

Warm-up

1 What do you know about Yao Ming?

Reading

2 Read the text. Circle the adjectives that can describe Yao Ming.

kind modest clever
popular hard-working

3 Answer the questions according to the passage.

1 What difficulties did Yao Ming face when he first played in the US?

2 How did Yao Ming win his teammates' respect?

3 What are the achievements of Yao Ming?

SPORTS

Basketball Star — Yao Ming

In 2002, Yao Ming decided to enter the NBA draft and was drafted to the Houston Rockets in June. He was the first international player without US college experience to be the Number 1 choice in the NBA draft. He soon grew to be a great player. In December of the same year, he was named Rookie of the Month. In 2004, Yao scored a career high of forty-one points in one game. In 2005, Yao Ming got the most votes in the NBA All-Star voting, which broke the record held by Michael Jordan.



Despite all Yao Ming's achievements, he had a challenging start. He had to deal with cultural differences and language difficulties to communicate with his teammates. But his personality and hard work helped him to win his teammates' and his fans' respect. He worked hard and was always trying to improve. The training paid off for him, and for his fans.

Although Yao Ming has achieved a lot, he has remained modest and has always valued his team members. After winning games, he always told the media that his teammates were great and he was proud to be one of the team.

Yao Ming is also known for his charity work. He founded The Yao Ming Foundation in 2008, and he has built five schools in Sichuan and other areas.

Yao Ming has won the hearts of people all around the world. Although he decided to retire in 2011, Yao Ming will always be thought of as one of the world's best sports stars, not only for his basketball skills but also for his spirit.

Communication Workshop

Reading

1 Read Kylie's story and tick the answers to the question below.

A Good Role Model

I'm the eldest child in my family, so I need to set a good example for my two little cousins. I learnt from my mother. She is my role model. Mum was also the eldest child in her family. She has two younger brothers. Mum was always calm, fair, and wise beyond her years. Even when Mum was only six years old, she used to share with her brothers. If there was one piece of cake, Mum would cut it into three pieces and let her brothers choose their pieces first. I do the same with my cousins.

Mum says that if I do the right things, my cousins will do the right things, too. I work hard at school, and I try to be helpful and kind all the time. As soon as I finish my homework, I always ask Grandma if I can help her with anything. Sometimes she wants me to help with the housework, but usually she just asks me to help my cousins with their homework.

Sometimes, there's a lot of pressure to be a good role model, but it makes me stronger. I guess I'm lucky to have Mum as an example. I hope that I can do as well as Mum, and that when my cousins grow up, they respect me as much as Mum's brothers respect her.



What does Kylie think a good role model should be?

☐ calm ☐ helpful ☐ kind ☐ strong ☐ lucky ☐ fair

Text Builder

2 Finish the table using information from Kylie's story.

Trait	hard-working	helpful	
Example			Cutting a cake into three pieces and letting the younger children choose first.

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read about Jenny's journey. Then match the correct paragraphs and the pictures below.

My Shanghai Journey

- (1) Last summer, I went to Shanghai with my parents. It was our first time. Shanghai is a large and modern city but it also has lots of historical places. I was really excited to have the chance to see them.
- (2) We stayed there for two days. On the first day, we went to Nanjing Road where there were lots of busy shopping malls. We also visited some places in the city centre. In the evening, we went to the Bund – a well-known waterfront area on the Huangpu River. We also went to the Oriental Pearl Tower, which is a landmark in Pudong and one of the world's tallest TV towers.
- (3) On the second day, we visited Xintiandi, where we saw lots of modern shops and restaurants in traditional shikumen-style houses. The old buildings there look very interesting. The scenery was really amazing!
- (4) Our stay in Shanghai was an unforgettable experience. I liked both the new and the old Shanghai. Two days was a bit short. I hope I can go to Shanghai again some time in the future.

a)



b)



- 2 Look for the adjectives in Jenny's writing that have the following meanings.

connected with the past (para. 1)

famous, known about by a lot of people (para. 2)

following ideas and methods that have existed for a long time (para. 3)

surprisingly good, great (para. 3)

Communication Workshop

Reading

1 Read Rich's story and fill in the table below.

Learning from Discoveries

When I was in junior high school, I was not good at sports because I was overweight. I was often laughed at by other students in my PE class. Gradually, I came to believe that I did not have the talent for sports.



One day, I was playing table tennis with a classmate in my PE class. My teacher said I was playing well and asked me to show the



other students how to play. I was very happy because it was the first time I had ever been praised by my PE teacher. From then on, I made up my mind to practise table tennis every day. After a lot of practice, I became the best table tennis player in my class. I started to love sports and joined others in doing all kinds of sports: running, swimming, football, basketball, etc. One year later, I not only did well in my PE class but also lost 10 kg and became the star of my class at the school sports games.

The experience of going from failure to success has taught me that everyone can be successful if they work hard.

Before	Personal experience	After
What was he like?	What happened?	What did he learn?

Communication Workshop

Reading

- 1 Read Matthew's article and answer the questions below.

Save the Planet

Over the last few years, my family and I have started working towards a greener life. My mum and dad drive less and often take a bus to work. They are careful to save gas when they cook. We recycle things like paper, cans and bottles, and we give old clothes and furniture to charities. In order to save energy, we turn off the lights during the day or when they are not being used.

Is all that enough? I believe there is a lot more we can do. For example, we will try to use less water by turning off the tap while we brush our teeth, and reusing the washing machine water to flush the toilet. Taking shorter showers will help too, as it will save water. Every member of our family will take part.

Saving the planet needs everyone's effort. Although each one of us may only do a little, together we can make a big difference. Let's work together to make our planet a better place to live.

- 1 What do Matthew's parents do to help reduce pollution?
- 2 What do Matthew's parents do to save gas?
- 3 What do Matthew and his family usually recycle?
- 4 What will Matthew and his family do to save water?

Text Builder

- 2 Can you classify what Matthew and his family do and will do into the following groups?

